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de Napoléon I^{er}) how the Helvetic state was formed under the pressure of the French Revolution and of the armies of the Directory, first as a unitary republic, afterward, under the Consulate and by Bonaparte's imperative mediation, as a federative republic, France progressively assuming all the rights of protectorate.

I have only one criticism to offer concerning the masterwork of my learned colleague of Zurich, which indeed deserves every praise. It is with reference to his judgment of the men of the Revolution, who were fatally the men of French intervention in Swiss affairs, and of the First Consul's attitude toward our country. When treating these questions Swiss historians are still under the influence of their political environment. Generally for those that belong to old cantons Frédéric César Laharpe of Rolle and Peter Ochs of Basel, who were prominent in stirring up foreign intervention, are traitors, and Bonaparte is to be considered without question as an enemy of Switzerland. Quite a different opinion prevails in the cantons that owe their existence as states to the struggle of 1798 and the following years. In Vaud, for instance, Laharpe's memory is worshiped, and it is not unusual, even to-day, to find Bonaparte's portrait as young "général en chef de l'armée d'Italie" or "Premier Consul" in the place of honor in good old country-houses.

Professor Oechsli did much to free himself from prejudice in his excellent narrative of the overthrow of ancient abuses, but, as he tells us in his preface, he confined himself, for this part of the big work he has undertaken, to printed documents. I hope that the results of the investigations which are now in progress in public and private archives, under the auspices of the Valdese authorities, will encourage him to go still farther in the way of historical serenity. Valdese patriots, having no other way of obtaining from aristocratic Bern redress and political life, tried to induce the French government to intervene in their favor and, with bad arguments but with the help of Bonaparte, succeeded. Bernese history may have bitter words for them. They were the cause of foreign invasion and of the fall of Bern. World-history (and Professor Oechsli contributes a part of the *Staatengeschichte der neuesten Zeit*) ought not to treat them as different from the American patriots who, not many years before, had recourse to Louis XVI in order to be helped by French ships, French troops, and French money in their desperate struggle against their mother-country. It is only since the time when nations, when people with representative governments, in the modern sense of these words, were born, that recourse to foreign aid in internal affairs has ceased to be current and can be fairly branded as historically treasonable.

CHARLES BORGEAUD.

A History of European Thought in the Nineteenth Century. By JOHN THEODORE MERZ. Vol. II. (London: Blackwood and Sons. 1903. Pp. xiii, 807.)

IT is in one sense regrettable that the immense labor involved in this remarkable work has prevented the author from carrying out his original

intention of presenting it to the public as a whole. We have before us at present two volumes ; and whereas the complete *History of European Thought in the Nineteenth Century* is to cover the development of political, social, historical, and philosophical ideas during that period, the present instalment deals only with that of scientific thought. This is unfortunate for the author, and even more so for the public, as it may safely be assumed that there are few men of science who will care to devote time to what appears at present little more than a retrospect of the branch of study in which they are interested, and that there are few students of history who will look at their subject widely enough to admit that the tracing of the development of human thought is their concern. And yet Mr. Merz's book promises to be, when completed, one of the most extraordinary and valuable achievements of history, and he has already proved his supreme endowment with many of the historian's greatest qualities — exact and profound learning, breadth of view, sobriety, lucidity, and freedom from prejudice.

Every day we are happily coming nearer a broader interpretation of the scope and utility of history, whatever the superficial indications may be. The tendency to narrow shows symptoms not of increasing strength, only of an increased number of supporters. The late Herbert Spencer, who disliked history and did not read it, has recorded his opinion that it should be considered merely the bricks and mortar of sociology, while Monsieur Langlois, whose name stands second to none in the field of historical science, has recently written, “ce qui manque ce ne sont pas les matériaux mais l'habitude de généralisation scientifique”. Is it not curious that the line of thought of two men starting from such opposite standpoints should approach so nearly? Is it not fairly arguable that it is the legitimate business of the historian to address himself to those evolutions of opinion and of the intellect that are destined, as civilization develops, to play an ever increasing part?

It is some such task as this that Mr. Merz has set himself. His present volumes deal with a section of his whole subject that the critic unlearned in science can only approach with diffidence. Yet some slight idea of what they contain can be given in a few words. First, the author recognizes three different national schools of scientific thought — the French, German, and English — and devotes a chapter to the consideration of the characteristics of each ; the concluding pages of his chapter on German thought, in which he is concerned with the ideals implied in the word *Wissenschaft*, is particularly striking and will remind those that had the good fortune to hear it of a recent and eloquent address delivered by Professor Harnack at Harvard. Second, turning from this aspect of his inquiry, the author divides scientific thought into its branches — such as physical, morphological, astronomical, biological or vitalistic, psychophysical — and deals with each one in turn, tracing with an erudition that never fails the development of each study and of the theories connected with it down to the present day. And here, in passing, may be noted one more of the great qualities of Mr. Merz, that

he uses but few technical or metaphysical terms, never lets them obscure his perception of essential facts, and, although dealing with an enormous mass of detail, never loses the thread of his narrative and purpose.

There are many notable passages on the fundamental problems of human existence and thought in these volumes. Among them the narrative of the evolution of the conception of energy in the middle of the last century (II, 140-150) is remarkable for its lucidity. In this respect it is worthy of note that in Mr. Merz's opinion, "Next to the conceptions introduced by Darwin into the descriptive sciences, no scientific ideas have reacted so powerfully on general thought as the ideas of energy" (II, 136). A few pages further (II, 214) a determination of the relative importance and position of the morphological and genetic views of nature is a striking example of balanced and constructive criticism and judgment.

In his account of the origin and influence of statistical ideas Mr. Merz stops short of our most recent developments in the application of tabular systems to the teaching of literature and the fine arts. Few who reflect on some of the exaggerations of the last few years, on the statistical methods that are supplanting instead of supplementing accurate knowledge and educated taste, will doubt what these pages suggest at every turn, that in this as in every branch of scientific study there is a term which sooner or later must be reached. The prevailing view that there is no limit to the range of scientific investigation, that we can go on forever extending the bounds of human knowledge by the processes of which Newton and Leibnitz were the great pioneers, will hardly be confirmed by a careful perusal of Mr. Merz's book, will perhaps, indeed, be shaken. There are even passages in which he marks the point beyond which investigation can hardly proceed, as for instance in the study of molecular, protoplasmic, and cellular forms (II, 272). Indeed it appears not impossible that our present modes of thought or modes of approaching scientific inquiry, of which, essentially, the history dates back but a couple of centuries, have now reached their fullest expression, that before long, as possible fields of exploration are successively occupied, new intellectual fashions may set in, and that the modes of thought of the future may by a sort of repetition or reflex action be once more in the plane of generalization and speculation. Even now a reaction is setting in against the too drastic training of immature minds to the exclusive perception of the infinitely little; symptoms are to be seen that we may soon feel the value of training to a sense of the proportion and relation of things.

It is to be hoped that the scientific externals of these first two volumes will not dissuade students of history from reading them. In those that are to follow we shall be on much more familiar ground. Perhaps Mr. Merz will there expose for us the rationale of that vitiating influence of autocratic governments on historical writing of which such curious instances have been witnessed in France under Napoleon III, in Germany under William II. The extraordinary attitude of such a powerful thinker

as Cuvier toward his political masters is another manifestation of a similar phenomenon worthy of the great analytical and synthetic powers of Mr. Merz. In conclusion he may be congratulated on having written one of the most noteworthy books produced in England of recent years.

R. M. JOHNSTON.

Correspondance du Duc d'Enghien (1801-1804) et Documents sur son Enlèvement et sa Mort. Publiés pour la Société d'Histoire Contemporaine par Le Comte BOULAY DE LA MEURTHE. Tome I. *Le Licenciement: La Conspiration de Georges.* (Paris: Alphonse Picard et Fils. 1904. Pp. lxvii, 521.)

A CERTAIN melancholy interest attaches to the fate of scions of unfortunate royal families. Personally as unimportant as Louis XVII or the Prince Imperial, the duke of Enghien because of his violent end as the political victim of the First Consul has unlike them attained to real historical importance. Most of the literature concerning the unfortunate duke possesses as little value as that relating to the son of Marie Antoinette or of the Empress Eugénie. Two books only of the many devoted to his career and fate have possessed real historical merit: *Les Dernières Années du Duc d'Enghien, 1801-1804*, by the Comte Boulay de la Meurthe (Paris, 1886), and *Le Duc d'Enghien, 1772-1804*, by Henri Welschinger (Paris, 1888). The centenary of the tragedy at Vincennes has given the occasion for the publication by the former of these writers of all of the correspondence and other primary materials relating to the fate of the last of the Condés so that the student of history might for himself investigate the proofs of his innocence and understand the motives which impelled the First Consul to an act of injustice, to a blunder which was worse than a crime. The editor has ransacked archives public and private from London to Moscow and from Stockholm to Naples, and has laid under contribution the varied printed sources. Naturally some of the most important documents, hitherto unpublished, are the personal correspondence of the Condé family drawn from the archives at Chantilly. The documents are arranged in this volume chronologically under five general headings so that they give a clear conception of the sequence and relation of events. Full notes and some appendixes explain necessary points, while a carefully written introduction correlates the whole mass of information. This volume covers the events prior to the arrest; the succeeding volume should contain all of the materials necessary for a full knowledge of the details of the tragedy itself.

Briefly stated, the first volume shows that the following were the preliminaries of the tragedy: Louis XVIII, king of France, as the royalists regarded him, was residing at Warsaw and seeking to secure his restoration by the creation of a public sentiment in France. He and the Condés, including the duke of Enghien, were opposed to assassination or conspiracy as a means to their end. Not so with the count of Artois (Charles X), who was residing at Edinburgh or in England, and who was alive for any intrigue that might accomplish his purpose. In 1803